THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee arc under examination.

Quality of News Broadcasts and Telecast in India

915. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the popularity of news telecast and broadcast by the Doordarshan and Akashvani respectively is less as compared to the International media;

(b) whether it is a fact that the public find the news telecasts by foreign T.V. net-works more credible than that of the Doordarshan and Akashwani;

(c) whether the Doordarshan is having its own network for news collection and news reports;

(d) if not, the action proposed to be taken by Government in this direction; and

(e) if no action is proposed, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) There are some correspondents at 8 cities.

(d) The news gathering set up is being reorganised. However, as a general practice the news is taken form AIR, PTI and UNI.

(e) Does not arise.

Entry of Foreign Media through Fradulent Means

916. SHRI GAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Newspaper Employees Federation has, in Memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister, expressed its deep concern over the international conspiracy by foreign media to enter India through fradulent means for obtaining a trade mark for their "brand name" as if newspapers were a commodity; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Several writ petitions have since been filed seeking the Court's direction restraining Registrar of Trade Marks and Registrar of Newspapers for India from registering foreign newspapers. The matter is subjudice.

Use of English and Hindi words in Tamil Broadcasts

917. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that English and Hindi words are used in Tamil broadcasts of All India Radio; and

(b) the reasons for which Tamil words of Akhila India Vanozhi are not used in Tamil broadcasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present practice of using the name "All India Radio" from radio

stations in Tamil Nadu and Akashvani' from other stations/centres in the country is considered appropriate.

Violation of Wildlife (Protection) Act by Film Censorship

918. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the provisions laid down in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, Wildlife (Protection) Act and the guidelines issued by Government have been blatantly flouted by the film censorship;

(b) whether Government have received any representation from certain organisations about the alleged cruelty towards the leopard which was shown in a film after stitching its mouth and removing its nails; and

(c) if so, what are the facts in this regard and what steps Government and the Central Board of Film Certification have taken to see that the animals are neither killed nor injured for the sake of film production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) All films presented to the Central Board of Film Certification are examined in the light of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952, the rules framed thereunder and the guidelines issued by the Central Government under section 5B(2) of the Act. The guidelines, *inter alia,* provide that the Board shall ensure that scenes showing cruelty to, or abuse of, animals are not presented needlessly. Certification of film is not regulated under the provisions of any other Act.

(b) and (c) Representations have been received from an organisation named "Beauty Without Cruelty International" of Pune and Bombay Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The film referred to therein, viz.,. BETAJ BADSHAH (Hindi), has been presented to the Board for certification. The Board has not yet taken a final decision regarding its certification. As the guidelines referred to in (a) make clear, no scenes showing cruelty to or abuse of animals can be presented needlessly; the Board will certainly follow these guidelines when certifying the film.

New Satellite TV Management Scheme

919. SHRIMATI SARALA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have chalked out a new Satellite Television Management Scheme; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether Government have decided to auction ten per cent time slots on satellite Channel to private sector; and

(c) if so, what are the terms and conditions for the participants in such auction purchase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) There is no such scheme. However, the channels of Doordarshan have been restructured from 1st February, 1994, for better channel management.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. Only ten per cent of the time of the satellite channels of Doordarshan has been earmarked for auction of time slots in deference to the observations made in a judgement delivered by the Delhi High Court striking down the scheme for allotment of time slots on first-come-first-served basis. Actual auctioning would, however, depend upon the outcome of the appeal preferred by the Government in the Supreme Court against the said judgement.